

Technical abstracts

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Drilling holes in round tube

In RadCom for November 2005, Ian White, GM3SEK, in his "In Practice" column, answers a question on how to accurately drill holes in the round tube as used for Yagi booms.

His first suggestion is to use square tubing as it is much easier. However, round booms do offer slightly lower wind resistance and may be a little cheaper.

The simplest kind of drilling jig is a channel to locate the tubing, with a guide block on top that both clamps the tube as well as locates and supports the drill bit. The whole thing can be made from wood.

Figure 1 shows the construction of the jig. A strong flat piece of wood is needed for the base plate. Two strips of planed wood are used for the two sides. The thickness should be the same as the diameter of the tubing. A substantial piece of hardwood is needed for the top guide block. The method of assembly should be self evident.

Figure 2 shows the method used to enable a number of holes to be drilled in line. In this case, a spirit level is clamped to one end of the tube and the level is

checked for horizontal before each hole is drilled in line.

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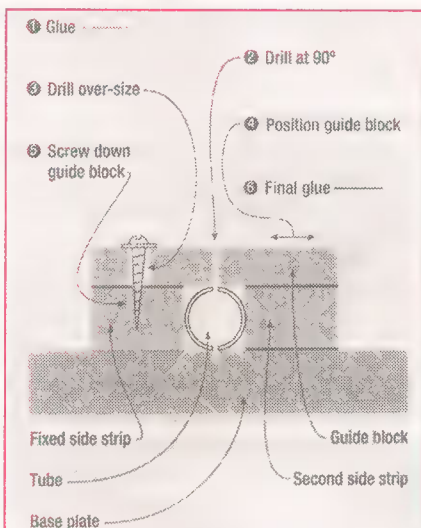


Figure 1 – Home made drilling jig for round tubing

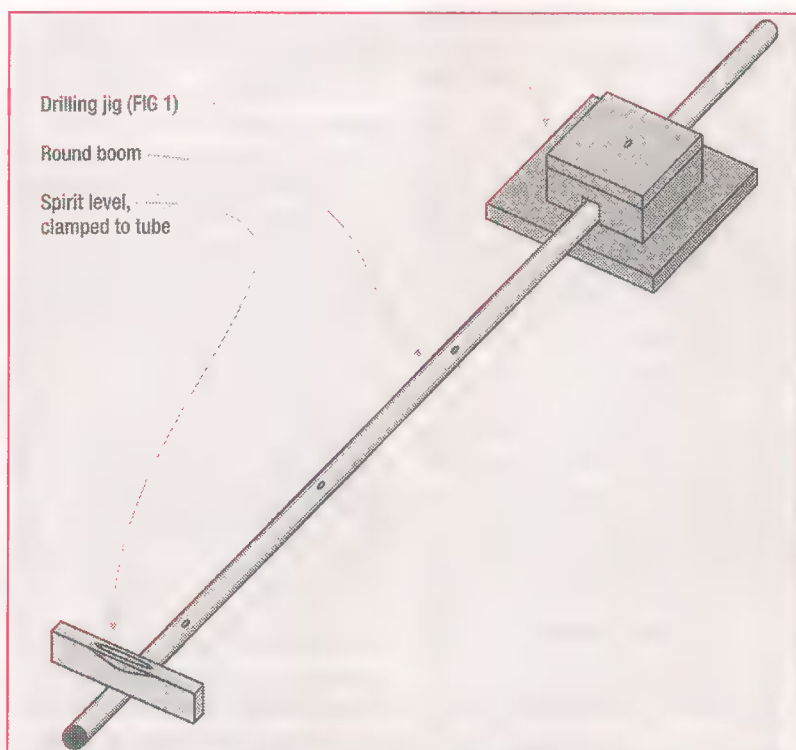


Figure 2 – Use spirit level to help drill all the holes in line